

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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52 East 41 Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 679-9650

Come and greet our new members at our Christmas Party Thursday, Dec. 10 - 5:30 - 8 p.m. - in the Main Lounge. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres at the cash bar... pull a gift from the grab bag under the Christmas tree (hoping it's better than the one you stuffed in)...door prizes, too...and the great music of jazz pianist Tommy Valvo. All MC'd by our own (and Fortune's) Roy Rowan... and for only 5 bucks! Reservations a MUST - Mary Novick - (212) 679-9650.

Hostages Victims Of Bad Reporting

The Iranian hostage crisis need never have happened. It happened because there was a complete failure of American intelligence to keep Washington reliably informed. The question now is, have we learned anything from the 444-day ordeal? Because the danger is, if we haven't, that we may find Americans threatened by another revolution in a friendly country and have no one there we can talk to.

This was the chill warning left with the overflow audience that crowded into the Club Nov. 11 to hear Pierre Salinger tell about the secret negotiations that went on to release the 52 hostages. His book, "America Held Hostage," detailing the inside story of those negotiations, had just been released by Doubleday.

Some of the highlights punched out by Salinger in his lively and spirited talk:

Israeli intelligence reported that the Shah was failing, but U.S. perception of this was faulty. We did not have any contact with anti-Shah people. We also had the wrong impression of Sadat, how he was perceived in Egypt and outside.

The military action taken by the U.S. was influenced by the Carter campaign for re-election.

Russia wanted to keep the hostage situation alive and played a very intelligent game through the Marxist-Leninist Tudeh party which keeps revolution going against the Ayatollah Khomeini. The Tudeh are a great threat.

And, despite the catastrophe of Iran, the U.S. still has no coherent Third World policy - except for its defense policy.

New Lease Ups Club Costs

A new lease and agreement with the Chemists Club were approved by the board of governors at its Nov. 16 meeting. It calls for an increase of 13.8% on use of the club's facilities and 12% on rental of the OPC office.

Several concessions earlier granted by the Chemists and then rescinded were reinstated:

- Rumford Hall, the main lounge and bar, will be available without charge to OPC from 5 to 8 p.m. one day a month. This saves OPC a previous charge of \$150.

- Mezzanine floor Room C will now definitely be named the Edward R. Murrow Room, so identified by a plaque on the door. It will be available to OPC at all times except when rented by the Chemists for a special occasion. The room will contain OPC memorabilia. President Gellermann is inviting Murrow's widow, Janet, an

honorary member, to supervise the room's decoration.

- Major OPC luncheon programs in the Bogart Room will have a fixed price of \$12, including tips and taxes, a price which should be more attractive to OPCers.

- A maximum credit line of \$750 per member/per month was agreed on, with the Chemists alerting OPC to delinquent accounts within ten days after they are payable.

Gellermann was assisted by Vice President Arthur R. Kavalier in the negotiations.

Guenther to Edit Dateline '82

John Guenther has been tapped by President Henry Gellermann to be editor of *DATELINE 1982*. Guenther, a former editor and writer for Scripps-Howard newspapers, the United Press and *Newsweek*, produced *DATELINE 81*, which was highly acclaimed as an editorial success as well as a good revenue producer for the Club because of its advertising success.

Guenther will be assisted again by Pierre Cooley as art director. Cooley, an art director at *The New York Times*, worked with Guenther on *DATELINE 81*.

Gellermann also announced appointment of Bruce W. Gray, president and publisher of the *Atlantic Monthly*, as chairman of the OPC annual awards committee.

He also announced appointment of Ed Cunningham as chairman of the nominating committee for the 1982 elections.

Salinger, a newspaper and magazine journalist before he got into political life with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and Senator Robert Kennedy, is now ABC News bureau chief in Paris. Before writing his book, he had done a 3-hour TV presentation of the same subject.

Among the distinguished guests at the Club to hear him were Christian Bourguet, a French lawyer, and Hector Villalon, an Argentinian entrepreneur, who were intermediaries in the negotiations for release of the hostages, the Barry Rosens, two of the hostages, and Ambassador John Sullivan, whose book "Mission to Iran" was recently published by W.W. Norton.

President Henry Gellermann welcomed the guests and Anita Diamant Berke presided as "Book Night" chairperson.



Photo by Nino Lo Bello

Alan Levy is the first American in Austria to receive the Golden Johann Strauss Medal, presented September 24 in a ceremony at Vienna's Rathaus (City Hall) by Vice Mayor Gertrude Froehlich-Sandner. Levy got the coveted medal and scroll for services to culture and tourism and for various articles he has written about Vienna and its tourist attractions in the *International Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times*, the *Reader's Digest*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and *ArtNews*. Levy's first play, "Ruth Brinkmann as Ruth Draper," will have its world premiere in Vienna's English Theater in 1982.

Al Kaff On Covering Asia

Arnold Dibble, veteran UPI foreign correspondent and news executive, died Nov. 10 in his home in El Paso just three hours after his release from a hospital where he underwent surgery for throat cancer. Dibble, 65, joined United Press in 1938 in Columbia, Missouri, and later worked for the wire service in Jefferson City, Kansas City, New York City, Korea, Japan, Philippines and Hong Kong. He spent 20 years as a foreign correspondent and also worked for *Newsweek* in New York and for Civil Air Transport, a commercial airline based in Taiwan that evolved from Gen. Claire Chennault's World War II Flying Tigers of China. Dib retired in 1978 and is survived by his mother, his wife Lee, daughter Susan who lives in Tokyo and a granddaughter.

Father Archibald Bryson, a Catholic priest who worked as a foreign correspondent in Asia from the end of World War II until stricken by cancer about a year ago, died a few weeks ago in his native Australia.

Russell Spurr, ABC radio correspondent based in Hong Kong, toured the United States in October and November for publication of his first book, "*A Glorious Way to Die*," an account of the largest battleship ever built, Japan's Yamato. In its first major mission in World War II, the

Yamato was ordered into the battle for Okinawa in April 1945 and almost immediately was sunk by U.S. air attacks.

The Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, which has moved from bar to bar during its 25 years, now occupies half a floor in the Oriental Plaza near Bangkok's Oriental Hotel.

The Club, with 550 members, includes a dining room, bar, workroom and a small reference library. Movies are shown on Wednesday and Saturday nights. In Bangkok, telephone the club at 234-1320/9.

Asian delegates who attended Edicon, UPI's annual meeting of its newspaper client editors, in New York in October included Kim Seong Jin, president of Korea's Yonhap News Agency; T.S. Khoo, *Singapore Straits Times*; Sarah Monks, Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post*; Zhou Lifang, Xinhua News Agency of China; Eitaro Masuyama and Nawohisa Murakami, Jiji Press of Japan, and Kenichi Sasaki, Kyodo News Service of Japan.

Khoo, president of the Singapore Press Club, and Miss Monks, board member of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong, visited the OPC for lunch during their stay in the Big Apple along with Kirsty Hamilton of Radio Television Hong Kong, who is working on a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University.

Krimsky On Covering Cancun

By George Krimsky

Take 2,300 journalists from five continents, writing in at least 10 languages, and put them in a remote seaside resort on the tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. House them in a half-dozen hotels and guarantee them Telex, telephone and satellite circuits to file back home.

Then take the leaders of 22 very diverse countries, and put them together in one hotel, off-limits to the press except in occasional and tightly controlled pools. Add some 5,000 soldiers and several hundred bodyguards, all mindful that a prominent state leader has been assassinated in Cairo only days before while his security men looked on.

Give the leaders a mandate no less important than examining the future of the world economy, but an agenda lacking in specifics.

The AP operation straddled two sites four miles apart: the Viva Hotel, where all the news agencies leased special filing circuits and the Calinda Hotel, where the American delegation set up its press and photo center.

Most delegations held their press briefings in yet another site, a press center where most of the international writers worked and filed. AP kept that center staffed, too.

The White House ran its own information operation at the Calinda, some five miles from the summit site.

And there you have the Cancun summit conference. It was a scramble, and any journalist who returned home from sweltering Cancun with a sun-tan would be suspect.

George Krimsky, OPC vice president, is Deputy Editor, AP World Services. He coordinated AP's Cancun coverage to newspapers and broadcasters in 109 countries. This piece is adapted from The Log, AP's internal magazine.

Sorry, Frena!

That excellent piece on the many newspapers and newspaper readers there are in busy busy Hong Kong that appeared in the October 15 *Bulletin* should have been credited to FRENA BLOOMFIELD. We regret the oversight.

Panel Raps Lack Of Reporters in Asia

U.S. media were criticized for "deserting Asia when there is no war going on" by not having enough correspondents in the area at the annual meeting of the mid-Atlantic region, Association of Asian Studies, held recently at the University of Maryland.

A 2-hour panel, with audience participation, concluded that American press reporting from Asia is good but suffers from fewer foreign correspondents abroad due to rising costs.

One panelist lamented the fact that "not a single U.S. newspaper has a man based in Hong Kong presently." It was noted that Korea, Taiwan and Japan all have more reporters in Washington than there are American correspondents based in Seoul, Taipei or Tokyo.

OPC'er **Edward Neilan**, editor and publisher of *The Asia Mail*, Alexandria, Va., chaired the discussion. Also participating were Pat Killen, UPI Washington; Alice Kao, *United Daily News*, Taipei; and Neil Donnelly, U.S. State Dept.

Russia's Tudeh Waits

By George Weller

ROME—In an Iran dripping with blood, why has Tudeh, professing loyalty to Khomeini, yet standing aside from the conflict, reason to be grateful?

The reason is that the two mightiest forces of Iran, the clergy led by Khomeini and the neo-socialist bloc led by Bani-Sadr with the Mujahedeen guerrillas are massacring each other by scores. And Tudeh's lightly armed teachers, labor agitators, and propagandists are keeping their powder dry, staying out of the line of fire. They deplore the bloodshed, but they do not offer themselves as intercessors to stop it. They await a winner.

What keeps the prudent Tudeh so powerful in the game? Their powerful, unseen leverage is a Soviet pledge, 60 years old this year, which nobody ever mentions. When Russia created the Persian Communists, they gave them a magic sword. "Call our Red Army into Persia," they said, "and we will come." This is their ace. It has never been played, not even when Britain and Russia divided Iran into spheres of power in WWII.

As Cornelius Van Engert, the 94-year-old grand old man of the State Department, said the other day, speaking out of his seasoned years in Central Asia, "The Reza Shah was a dynamic army sergeant, elevated to power by Britain, as an answer to the birth of Persia's communists."

In 1920 a Bolshevik mosquito fleet of gunboats slipped southward through the Caspian and landed at Ezeli. This was the birth of the "Revolutionary Republic of Ghilan" under Kuchuk Khan, an early Castro. The British answer was to stand by in Tehran while Reza Shah took over the government from the weak dynasty of Guajars.

The following year Lenin agreed to pull the Red Army out of northwest Persia. But in return he demanded an open hunting license.

This was the Treaty of Friendship, signed at Moscow Feb. 26, 1921. It gave Russia the right to move into Iran if any other power invaded it. In theory, this might have been invoked by Khomeini when President Carter sent his airborne mission to rescue the 52 hostages. It is the first legal obstacle that any American Rapid Deployment Force would encounter.

The drafter of this triumphant document was an editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, Theodore Rothstein, who became Lenin's first envoy. He set up a network of subsidized newspapers, and kept the editors in the safety of the Soviet compound.

Obituary

William Mendrek, who had retired as an editor of the *Readers Digest* and was the husband of OPCer **Rosanne McVay**, died Nov. 1 in New York of lung cancer. A native of Holyoke, Mass., he had organized his own band while still a youth. He later went into the theater and appeared in George Abbott's big hits, "Room Service" and "Boy Meets Girl." He directed and appeared in the London production of "Room Service." He also appeared in summer stock and wrote for radio and TV.

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Placement is a free service to OPC members. To be listed with jobs offered or sought, address Helen Alpert at the OPC.

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Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, George E. Burns, Rosalind Massow, Rosalind Moore, Charles J. Schreiber, associate editors.

Who, What, Where

By Rosalind Massow

GREETINGS FROM VIENNA: via **Peter Brennan**, who visited recently with fellow OPCer **Fritz H. (Fred) Baer**, now bureau chief in Europe for the Kuwait News Assn. (KUNA), before that for many years bureau chief there for McGraw-Hill. "Fred's hobby," Peter reports, "is the Austrian Empire. He has what he believes is the most complete collection of medals and awards given by the Emperors, a dazzling collection, to say the least. He also has an arsenal of antique Austrian military rifles dating from the 17th century to the end of the Empire."

PRIVATE PAPERS GO PUBLIC... **Helen Lowe Auble**, a major force in the development of the Caribbean tourist industry, donated her private papers and historical documents on Caribbean tourism to the Island Resources Foundation in St. Thomas, U.S. V.I. Among the materials in the Helen Auble West Indian Tourist Collection are Caribbean publications no longer in print, including some regional publications she used to publish.

NEW DIRECTIONS... **Reginald Reagan, Jr.**, who has just finished two years of work on a visual dictionary, is ready to hoist the sails on a new venture. He becomes editor of *Yachting Magazine*, a Ziff-Davis publication. His dictionary, "What's What", co-authored with David Fisher, is due out this fall. Hammond Inc., is publishing it... **Thomas J. Cunningham Jr.**, retired Army Colonel, appointed director of public affairs for the National Moving and Storage Association, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., Col. Cunningham also assumed editorship of *Direction*, the association's magazine

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATION... A personal letter from President Reagan commending her for work with youngsters in overseas schools, is **Doris Macauley's** newest prized possession. Doris has been involved in a special program to help non-readers learn to read. President Reagan wrote "I am pleased to hear that you share my love for reading. You may be proud of the contribution you are making."

A NUMBER TO REMEMBER... Berlin bound OPC'ers are assured a warm welcome by **Stan Silbey**, Deputy Public Affairs officer, U.S. Command, Berlin. Stan says his hospitality is good seven days a week. On weekends, the phone in Berlin is 831-3694, weekdays it's 819-6838.

BACK FROM HUNGARY to his Pompano Beach, Fla., home is **Martin A. Burton**, having completed his assignment from the *Miami Herald* "to assess the socio-political status of Hungary on the 25th anniversary of that Soviet satellite's revolution." Burton also visited with Ernie Langan-dorff, president of the Munich Press Club, and with **William Mahoney**, information officer for Radio Free Europe in Munich. Burton is remembered for his book, "Escape from Fear," which drew a record attendance at an early Book Night when the Club was still on 39th Street, 1958.

* * *

"ALLENDE: DEATH OF A MARXIST DREAM" was published recently by Arlington House and its author, **James R. Whelan**, is pleased with a major review it has already received in the *Los Angeles Times*. Author Whelan is editor of the *Sacramento Union*.

* * *

RAGS TO RICHES GOES ABROAD in the 1981 Books-Across-the-Sea program of the English-Speaking Union. **Ralph D. Gardner's** "Horatio Alger," the story of the most popular rags-to-riches author, is one of only 11 books chosen. Purpose of the program: "to interpret the lives, background, regions and culture of the United States to people in other countries." Ralph is represented twice. One of the other books selected, "Publishers for Mass Entertainment in 19th Century America," contains a history by Ralph of Street & Smith, one of the earliest and biggest publishers of dime-novel paperbacks.

* * *

WHAT'S IN A NAME? **Takashi Oka**, who has just left the post of chief correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor* in Japan to head

their bureau in Peking, tells you: "Jianguomenwai is a very long name but it breaks up (in meaning) as follows: Jianguo-men-wai - Jianguo Gate Outside, or Outside the Jianguo Gate. Peking no longer has walls but many of its main streets are named after the main gates. The portion of the street within the gate is Jianguo-men-nei, and the portion beyond the street is Jianguo-men-wai. Jianguomenwai is an extension of Changan Blvd. which leads into Tiananmen Square." All this because his new address is 7-2-133 Jianguomenwai, Peking, China. Should be easy to find.

ERWIN BOLL is moving from the German Foreign Office in Bonn to Edmonton, Canada, to be German Consul General there. His new address: P.O. Box 363, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 2J6. Closer now to the Club, he is "looking forward to another visit." Come soon!

Long time OPC member **Leonard E.B. Andrews**, editor and publisher, Andrews Publications, has launched his ninth publication since June 9. Entitled DES Litigation Reporter, the twice-monthly journal of record is similar to his very successful journals that cover complex national and international litigation involving asbestos, swine flu, hazardous wastes and Iranian assets. He also publishes journals of major bankruptcy proceedings such as O.P.M. Leasing Services, Itel Corporation and White Motor Corporation.

*To all of you there
From all of us here:
Happy Holidays and
A Great New Year!*

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
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